

App. No. 09/892,676
Amendment Dated: September 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A computer-implemented method for resolving a conflict detected while synchronizing a first data object in a first store associated with a mobile device and a second data object in a second store associated with a server, comprising:

- a) designating at least one property of the first data object as a mergeable property and at least one corresponding property of the second data object as a corresponding mergeable property;
- b) determining if the conflict detected comprises a difference between the at least one mergeable property of the first data object and the at least one corresponding mergeable property of the second data object; and
- c) if so, merging the first data object and the second data object to resolve the conflict.

Claim 2 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein merging the first data object and the second data object comprises determining a preferred state for each of the at least one mergeable property and corresponding mergeable property that differ and storing the preferred state in the mergeable property and corresponding mergeable property if an initial state of the mergeable property and the corresponding mergeable property is different than the preferred state.

Claim 3 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the preferred state is related to a likelihood that vital information would be lost if the preferred state did not replace the initial state when different.

Claim 4 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the first data object and the second data object comprise an email object, the mergeable property and corresponding mergeable property comprises a read indicator, and the preferred state comprises an unread state.

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Claim 5 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein merging is performed without user-intervention on the mobile device.

Claim 6 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising sending a notification to the mobile device if merging of the first data object and the second data object was performed.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein the notification includes an identifier associated with the first data object, a property name associated with the mergeable property in conflict, and a status describing the conflict.

Claim 8 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first data object and the second data object comprise an email object and the at least one mergeable property and corresponding mergeable property comprises a read indicator.

Claim 9 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first data object and the second data object comprise an appointment object and the at least one mergeable property and corresponding mergeable property comprises a reminder and a reminder time.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the conflict is resolved by merging a reminder with an earlier reminder time of the conflicting properties as the value for both properties.

Claim 11 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising determining if values associated with the at least one mergeable property of the first data object and the at least one corresponding mergeable property of the second data object are the same, and if so, dismissing the conflict.

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Claim 12 (previously amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for synchronizing a first data object associated with a mobile device and a second data object associated with a server, the instructions comprising:

receiving a request for a synchronization event that synchronizes the first data object with the second data object;

during the synchronization event, comparing the first data object to the second data object; and

if a mergeable property of the first data object differs from a corresponding mergeable property of the second data object, automatically merging the mergeable property of the first data object with the corresponding mergeable property of the second data object.

Claim 13 (previously amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein merging the mergeable property of the first data object with the corresponding mergeable property of the second data object comprises:

determining a preferred state for the mergeable property and the corresponding mergeable property;

sending the preferred state to the mobile device if an initial state of the mergeable property of the first data object is different than the preferred state; and

sending the preferred state to the server if the initial state of the corresponding mergeable property of the second data object is different than the preferred state.

Claim 14 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the preferred state is based on a likelihood that vital information would be lost if the preferred state did not replace the initial state when different.

Claim 15 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein merging is performed without user-intervention on the mobile device.

Claim 16 (previously amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the first data object comprises a set of properties and merging includes sending a sub-set of the

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set of properties to the mobile device if an initial state of the mergeable property that differs from the corresponding mergeable property is different than a preferred state.

Claim 17 (previously amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the sub-set includes the mergeable property that differs from the corresponding mergeable property.

Claim 18 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the preferred state is based on a likelihood that vital information would be lost if the preferred state did not replace the initial state when different.

Claim 19 (previously amended): A system for resolving a conflict detected during a synchronization session, comprising:

a first device associated with a first data store, the first store storing a plurality of data objects;

a second device associated with a second data store, the second data store storing a plurality of corresponding data objects, each corresponding data object being associated with one of the data objects stored in the first store; and

a server configured to detect a conflict between one of the data objects and the corresponding data object when a mergeable property of the data object is different than a corresponding mergeable property of the corresponding data object and to merge the mergeable property of the data object and the corresponding mergeable property if different.

Claim 20 (previously amended): The system of claim 19, wherein the server is configured to merge the mergeable property of the data object and the corresponding mergeable property if different by sending a preferred state for the mergeable property to the mobile device if an initial state for the mergeable property is different than the preferred state and by sending the preferred state for the corresponding mergeable property to the server if the initial state for the corresponding mergeable property is different than the preferred state.

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Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the preferred state is based on a likelihood that vital information would be lost if the preferred state did not replace the initial state when different.

Claim 22 (previously amended): The system of claim 21, wherein the data object and the corresponding data object comprise an email object, the mergeable property and the corresponding mergeable property comprise a read indicator, and the preferred state comprises an unread state.

Claim 23 (previously amended): The system of claim 19, wherein the server is configured to merge the mergeable property of the data object and the corresponding mergeable property without user-intervention on the first device.

Claim 24 (new): A computer-implemented method for synchronizing a first data object and a second data object, comprising:

detecting a conflict between the first data object and the second data object;
identifying at least one property of the first data object that is mergeable and at least one corresponding property of the second data object that is mergeable; and
automatically resolving the conflict by merging the first data object and the second data object to form a single, identical data object in each store.